

## Elbow to Elbow

The scene you are about to witness could have happened in your home. It may have occurred late at night or early in the morning. The people are real—a parent and a child. This scene has been repeated regularly from the time the child could sit still.

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Once a week, every week, at the appointed time you sit down with your child elbow to elbow. With Bibles opened, you bow your heads and ask God for wisdom as you look into His Word together. You take your pens or colored pencils in hand and begin to read the only living book in the world.

You've already shared the excitement of crossing the Red Sea behind Moses, the disappointment of watching king Saul, the majesty of walking in Christ's footsteps, and the triumph of fighting side by side with the King of Kings at Armageddon.

You are grateful that you've invested those few minutes each week of his life over the last fifteen years. Those minutes haven't been easy to find sometimes. There have been pressures from work, pressures from busy schedules, and the pressure of weariness. It often seemed that an appointment with a child could always wait till later. You've thought, "Maybe we can put it off today and do it another time." But you know those "other times" just never seem to appear.

It has taken a rugged determination just to be consistent with those weekly moments with that child. Those moments have been precious not only because they have been hard to find, but also because of what has come out of them—the questions he has asked, the discoveries he has made, the things you've learned yourself, the discussions you have gotten into, and the things he has shared with you out of his own daily Bible reading through the rest of the week. The time together has shifted a couple time because of seasonal obligations in his life.

It has been more than a once-a-week ritual. It has been a series of milestones. It has been a bonding agent to your lives, a touch of honey to your love, the seal of your commitment to train your child in the way he should go.

Together, since he was three, you have prayed over unsaved friends, neighbors and relatives, as well as your own fellow employees and his classmates. You've kept lists of answered prayers. You've memorized verses together, and systematically [*or maybe haphazardly*] prayed for every country in the world. You even sang together a couple times.

Today is your last day to sit elbow to elbow. Tomorrow he leaves for college. He's almost on his own now. But he isn't going to put his Bible aside next week. It's not going to gather dust for the next four years. No, the Word of God will still be a part of his life at semester break as well as at graduation.

That appointed time of each week might seem a little emptier after today, but there is a young man praying beside you today, Dad, who will pray for you for the rest of his life.

Phil Myers is the father of nine children. Each child had a special "Elbow to Elbow" time each week with him. His oldest three are out of the home already and the youngest aren't even old enough to read.

c, 1993